

LIFE FOR LIFE.

Charles Hamilton Found Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

Unanimous Jury on the Second Ballot—Conduct of Hamilton.

Other Matters in the Johnson County Criminal Court—Notes.

Warrensburg, May 12.—[Special].—The time of the criminal court was occupied until noon to-day in selecting a panel of forty jurors from the special venire of sixty men from which to select a jury to sit in the Aultman trial for the murder of Carl Steidle. The case has been set for Wednesday at 11 o'clock. The three lawyers from Kansas City, which Aultman said he had employed, failed to show up, and the court appointed Hon. A. W. Rogers and Col. J. M. Shepherd to defend him.

At half past one in the afternoon the trial of Charles Hamilton was resumed, the jury appearing and taking their seats a few minutes before that hour.

Mr. Logan then read the exposition of the law and instructions to the jury on behalf of the state, and was followed by Mr. Sparks with those asked for the defense.

THE ARGUMENTS.

At 1:50 Mr. Logan began his argument, making a general resume of the case from the inception of the horrible crime in the mind of Aultman until the arrest and in the incarceration of the two men. He ruthlessly tore to pieces the only hope of the defendant—sympathy—and scattered the frail fabric to the winds. Ordinarily, Mr. Logan is an eloquent, logical speaker, but on this occasion, with the punishment of a brutal and horrid murder before his mind's eye, every word rang out, every syllable bore might, and had the balloting for verdict been permitted among his hearers at the close of his speech, it is safe to say that nine-tenths of them would have read "guilty."

Mr. Sparks arose, and in a low but distinct voice began his speech. He introduced his cause by saying that his task was

WELL-NIGH HOPELESS.

He had been appointed by the court to defend a prisoner whose own open confession had condemned him; he was laboring without hope of pecuniary reward, but would do the best he could to establish the innocence of his client. He took the confession of Hamilton, incident by incident, hoping to draw therefrom some proof of the innocence of the unfortunate young man. He pictured Aultman's as the master, controlling spirit, drawing as with a chain of steel the weaker mind of Hamilton. All the occurrences of the tragedy save one, the striking of Steidle with the track wrench, were proven to have been the work of Aultman; by him the plans were laid; by his strong will and

SUPERIOR CUNNING

were they executed. Hamilton had struck the blow that stunned their victim, but beyond this none of the fiendish work had been his. He did not see anything of Steidle until the night of the murder. Aultman had coaxed him away from Sedalia, deceived him at Montserrat, walked with him to Warrensburg, enticed him into the gloomy railway track in the dead hour of night, cursed and abused Hamilton for not striking the blow, and after the murderous weapon had fallen upon the head of the helpless and unsuspecting German,

RIFLED HIS POCKETS

of their contents, even rolling the writhing body over to secure the pistol in the hip pocket, leaving the body between the rails to be crushed beneath the wheels of the approaching train. But of no avail was Mr. Sparks' plea for the life of his client. After speaking for more than an hour he yielded the floor to Prosecuting Attorney Wood, to whom was assigned the duty of closing and giving the case to the jury. Mr. Wood, though at times a forcible and brilliant orator, needed not to say much on this occasion, for the verdict

WAS PRINTED ON THE FACES OF THE JURY.

He finished his speech at 4:45, and, after hearing the instructions of the court, the jury retired.

Just an hour later, that is 5:45, the jury signalled to the sheriff that they had come to a conclusion and filed in and took positions before the court. The usual legal questions were asked and answered, and the foreman handed the verdict to the clerk. A silence lasted a few minutes, when the clerk was commanded to read the verdict. It was as follows:

THE VERDICT.

"We, the jury, find the defendant, Chas. Hamilton, guilty of murder in the first degree, in the manner and form as charged in the indictment."

"ANDREW S. CAMPBELL, Foreman."

Mr. Sparks then asked that the jury be polled, which was done. The clerk called their names one at a time, and after answering the court propounded to each this question, "Mr. —, is this your verdict?" to which each answered "yes," and they were discharged.

CONDUCT OF THE PRISONER.

The prisoner watched the jury closely from the time they entered the room until the reading of the verdict, not a muscle being moved. At its conclusion he wiped the perspiration from his forehead with his bare hand, his chin fell upon his breast and he remained in this position until the sheriff disturbed him to take him back to prison. His face, naturally pale, wore the pallor of death; his eyes were fixed; his hands folded idly in his lap, his body rigid as marble. No tears came to his eyes. Perhaps the fountain of his soul has dried up, who knows?

CRIMINAL COURT NOTES.

—A number of ladies heard the arguments of the attorneys.

—Sheriff M. S. Conner, of Sedalia, was in attendance as a witness to-day.

—The first ballot of the Hamilton jury resulted in 10 for murder in the first; de-

gree; 2 for acquittal. The second ballot was the final one.

—Aultman sent the following message to Hamilton Sunday: "You will get ten years in the penitentiary and I'll go free, and then I'll laugh at you through the prison bars."

—Jim Butler, of Kansas City, Kas., one of the witnesses for the state, in the Hamilton case came near jumping the town to-day, but his plans were discovered and he was placed under \$100 bonds for his appearance Wednesday.

History of the Crime.

On Sunday night, March 31, 1884, one of the most fiendish and brutal murders in the annals of the country was committed in this city. The particulars were published in the papers at the time, and became, at once, the absorbing topic of conversation.

Carl Steidle was born in the city of Wurtemberg, Germany, and trained in the shops of that country as a mechanic. He soon found that his sphere in that land was too narrow, and, hearing of the advantages offered skilled laborers in this country, took ship and sailed for this land of freedom. Scarcely had he landed on the shores of America, and before he was able to speak the language of the country, work was offered him in the railroad repair shops at Sedalia. Thither he came, and followed his trade. His free, open nature won for him many friends there; his skill afforded him the esteem and respect of his employers.

While living in Sedalia he by chance formed the acquaintance of one Wm. Hamilton, alias Edward Aultman, whose life, it transpires, had been clouded by a term in the penitentiary. This Aultman was a mean, cunning man, and by his serpent-like, insinuating manner, soon won the confidence of the German, and he then and there made up his mind to rob him of his hard-earned wealth, amounting to about \$200 in money and a good stock of clothing.

In the state prison this Aultman formed the acquaintance of a fellow-convict, Charlie Hamilton, alias William Nalskey, whose term of imprisonment would expire a few months later than that of Aultman. Hamilton, or Nalskey, is a young man, just past the age of 27 years, of a disposition as tractable as a child's, and can be led about as though he were one. After the expiration of Aultman's time, knowing that he could not write to Hamilton in prison otherwise, and needing him in his nefarious business of robbery and perhaps murder, he addressed a letter to him as his brother, from whence he gets the name Billy "Hamilton." In that letter he persuaded Charlie Hamilton to come to Sedalia and meet him there. This Charlie does, and they renew the friendship begun behind the bars. They rent and furnish a room, Billy agreeing to vouch for Charlie until he (Charlie) can secure work. Billy was at work in the painting department of the car shops, and Charlie, after spending the day, as he says, in search of work, would go at night to the narrow gauge depot in Sedalia, and there the two friends would discuss their future.

Carl Steidle being a workman in the Pacific shops, it was but natural that he should meet and form the acquaintance of these two men, and tell them of his plans also. Billy acquainted Charlie of the financial condition of Steidle, at the same time hinting at his plan for getting the German's money. This suggestion, Charlie says in his testimony before the coroner's jury, he repudiated with scorn, and left Sedalia, in order that he might find employment elsewhere, get away from Aultman, and begin a new and better life. He came to this city, penniless, and applied to Mr. Cottrell, the proprietor of the Simmons house, for employment. Mr. Cottrell, having just lost the services of his porter, engaged Hamilton to take his place, paying him therefor \$2.50 per week and board. Mr. Cottrell gave him credit, while in his employ, of a strict attention to the duties assigned him, and saw nothing amiss in his conduct.

Here the depraved Aultman again found him, writing a letter from Sedalia telling Charlie to resign his position, draw his pay and go with him to Kansas City, and thence to California or Colorado. He talked the matter over with Mr. Cottrell, and at the earnest solicitation of that gentleman, agreed to remain with him another week.

On Sunday, March 30th, Aultman and Steidle left Sedalia with the intention of going west.

Steidle had packed all his personal property, including the clothes he wore in the shops, and his mechanic's tools in his trunk, had it hauled to the depot, and, taking the passenger train west from Sedalia Sunday afternoon, came to Montserrat, this county, where they alighted, Steidle supposing he was in Warrensburg. When he discovered his mistake the two men proceeded on foot to this city, arriving here at night. Leaving Steidle at the depot, Aultman went to the Simmons house, met Hamilton, and unfolded his plans. The German, he said, was an ignorant greenhorn, unable to speak or understand the English language, and possessed of \$200 in money and considerable other property, which they could easily get by striking him on the head and stunning him to unconsciousness. Charlie demurred to this, but his weak will in the hands of this man was overcome. After settling up with Mr. Cottrell, and receiving a balance of some \$4.30 due him, he went with Aultman to the depot, when he met and was introduced to this new friend. The three then came up town in search of something to drink, and applied to J. D. Eads, druggist, corner of Holden and Pine streets. This Eads refused to sell them. "It will make no difference," said Billy; "We are strangers here, and are going to Kansas City by the next train." Eads still refusing them the wine, they left and went to Jacob's restaurant, half a block further up the street, and asked for liquor. Mrs. Jacobs, the wife of the proprietor, informed the men she had nothing to drink but lemonade. They drank three glasses, and returned to the depot. After sitting there awhile Aultman proposed to Steidle that they take a walk up the street. Charlie went around behind the depot and secured an iron wrench, such as trackmen use to tighten the nuts on the track bolts. He overtook the two walking up the track, Aultman in front, Steidle just behind him. When Aultman knew that Hamilton was present he began abusing and cursing him in English for his cowardice, and asking him why he did not strike. When they

had passed the Miller street bridge, and were just entering the deeper there, Hamilton, at a given signal from Aultman, struck Steidle just above the right ear, felling him to the ground. Aultman immediately seized the man by the throat, choking him as he rifled his pockets. The choking continued for five minutes, or until, as Hamilton says in his confession, life was almost extinct.

Aultman secured Steidle's money, watch, pistols, papers, etc., even turning the body over until he could remove his overcoat. Express train No. 4, going east had just arrived at the depot, and Hamilton says he became afraid of being seen by the train men in the glare of the locomotive's headlight, and went up the bank in the dark. Aultman remained below, and after getting all he could from the pockets of his victim, dragged the body between the rails and fled from the scene. They stood on the bank until the express train had passed, crushing the body in its progress, and then went away. They then returned to the depot, and started down the track, going west. A mile or more from town they went out a few yards from the railroad, built a fire, and by its light divided and sorted their booty. All the papers, photographs, a pocket knife and other small articles they burned, and buried the watch and chain in the earth.

About 3 o'clock on the morning of the 31st they arrived at Centerville, and going to the house of S. J. Oliphant, who keeps a hotel, woke him up and demanded breakfast. He told them it was too early for his wife to get up, but he would give them a light lunch, they saying they would return for breakfast. He gave them four glasses of cider, some cheese and crackers and two slices of cake which they ate and then went away. Billy ate a very hearty breakfast, but Charlie ate not more than one or two bites and drank a cup of coffee. Charlie paid Mr. Oliphant and they went away.

At the depot they boarded a passing freight train and rode to Kansas City. The conductor noticed that they had been drinking heavily, and that one of them slept for nearly an hour. Once within the limits of Kansas City the conductor lost track of them and saw no heard nothing more of them until they were arrested.

At Kansas City they took Steidle's trunk from the baggage room, and took it to the restaurant of one James Butler, in Kansas City, Kansas, where they spent the night of April 1st. In the morning Charlie says they took Steidle's clothes and traded them to a second-hand dealer for a new suit, paying the difference in money. They traded his revolver for a larger one, and at a jewelry store Charlie bought a silver watch and chain. All the articles in the two trunks, clothes, boots, tools, etc., were positively identified by several witnesses, and there was no doubt as to the truth of Charlie's story. This statement was substantiated all the way through by the testimony of the large number of witnesses for the state, each one's evidence appearing to be a link to make the chain complete.

Each one seemed to have some new incident to relate, they all fitting together to make one whole, like the different pieces of a watch. One witness swore to the friendship of Steidle and Aultman; another began with their departure from Sedalia; another found them at Montserrat; the fourth detailed their arrival in this city; Hamilton finished the story until their arrest, and so on, no one contradicting the other, each forming an additional link in the indestructible chain that will bind them to the gallows.

From the time of their arrest your readers are well acquainted with the case, it having been made generally known at the time.

DOWNED BY A DETECTIVE.

Elgin Stevens, the Warrensburg Burglar and Jail-Breaker Trapped.

He Wants to Suicide, Saying Hell is Preferable to a Return.

St. Joseph, May 12.—[Special].—Elgin Stevens, who broke jail at Warrensburg on the 3d of December last, where he was held on the charge of burglarizing a house at Holden was discovered here to-day as an inmate of the calaboose by Detective George Bryant, of Kansas City, who had received a pointer to that effect from some unknown source. Stevens was arrested here on Tuesday last: under the name of John Harrington in company with a party who gave the name of Johnson, better known as "Sheehey Sam"; both were convicted of vagrancy the following morning and fined \$18.50 each, in default of which amount they were sent to the workhouse where they remained until this morning. Sometime during the forenoon "Sheehey Sam" in company with four other prisoners made his escape from the place where they were engaged in cracking rocks, but Stevens refused to go as he had written to his brother, Baldy Stevens, of Holden for money, and expected it tomorrow when it was his intention to pay his fine and take his departure for St. Paul. When taken into custody, Stevens had in his possession

A ROGUE'S CHECK on the City National bank of Denver for \$450, but as he had made no attempt to negotiate he could only be prosecuted on the charge of vagrancy.

Detective Bryant will leave in the morning with his prisoner for Warrensburg and arrive there on the night train. In conversation with your correspondent Stevens said he would blow his brains out if he had a pistol, as he would much prefer being in hell to going back to Johnson county, where he is known by nearly everybody.

Collision.

Montrose, Mo., May 13.—[Special].—Two trains collided about 2 o'clock to-day one mile north of this place. Engines Nos. 143 and 144 attached to freight trains going in opposite directions met. The error was with the operator at Montrose, who gave a clearance order to the train bound north when he should have held it there to make a meeting point. The operator was a new one, having entered upon his duties to-day. The entire damage is estimated at less than one hundred dollars. No one hurt.

For lame Back, Side or Chest use Shiob's Porous Plaster. Price 22 cents. Sold by Bard & Miller.

THE AULTMAN CASE.

The Prime Spirit in the Steidle Murder on Trial for His Life.

Emerson, the Horse Thief, Pleads Guilty—Other Matters of Interest.

Warrensburg, May 14.—[Special].—The trial of Billie Hamilton, alias Ed. Aultman, for complicity in the murder of Carl Steidle, a German, on the night of the 30th of March last, was begun in the criminal court at 11 o'clock to-day, Prosecuting Attorney Wood and Col. A. B. Logan appearing for the state, and Cols. J. M. Shepherd and A. W. Rogers for the defense. The trial of Charlie Hamilton, the accomplice of Aultman, was concluded Monday, and resulted in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree.

Almost the same witnesses were examined by the state to-day as in the Charles Hamilton case, and nothing of any importance not already published was elicited. It is very clearly shown that Aultman left Sedalia in company with Steidle for the purpose of robbing him of the \$200 he was known to possess. Not having the courage to commit murder for the sake of robbery, he planned the scheme to inveigle Billie into committing the murder while he secured the larger share of the booty.

Your readers are all familiar with the details of the murder and the escape of the two criminals to Kansas City, and their subsequent arrest at Sedalia. It was the work of but two or three days, and was one of the nearest captures ever made. At the time the officers went to Billie's room to Sedalia to make the arrest, and when told that he was wanted for murder he exclaimed, "Murder, murder, you is dot?" as though he were unacquainted with even the meaning of the word.

It is thought the case will be given to the jury to-morrow, and there is little room to believe their verdict will be different from that given in the other case. Should conviction follow, the two men will be sentenced on the last day of the term, perhaps Saturday.

THE ASHBY CASE.

The time of the criminal court was taken up yesterday in the trial of James L. Ashby for felonious assault upon James A. Wirt, on the 25th of December last. The two men were at a festival for the benefit of the Rose Hill cemetery, held at the village school house, and the quarrel grew out of the sale of a cake at auction. Some one bought the cake, paying therefor \$2, and when Ashby learned that the Wirt family, at whom he had a grudge, had baked the cake, he offered 25 cents more for it, saying he would throw it out the window, which was actually done. From this the two men came to blows, and during the melee a pistol was drawn by Ashby, and was discharged, Ashby says, accidentally. He was arrested and indicted by the grand jury, as stated.

The state was represented by Prosecuting Attorney Wood and W. H. Brinker, while Hon. S. P. Sparks and A. B. Logan appeared for the defendant.

The case has attracted considerable attention, and a large crowd was in attendance all day.

At 9:15 Mr. Wood, on behalf of the state, closed the argument and the cause was given to the jury. The following is the verdict:

We, the jury, find the defendant guilty, and assess his fine at \$500.

T. S. PATTON, Foreman.

Later.

Warrensburg, May 15.—[Special].—The trial of Billie Hamilton was resumed to-day in the criminal court. At the conclusion of the evidence for the state, the defendant was placed on the stand. He told a very different story from that told by Charlie, and tries to lay all the blame for the killing on the latter. He says he knew nothing whatever of Charlie's intention to murder Steidle until the blow was struck, and was then compelled, at the point of Hamilton's pistol to choke the man to death and rob him of his money. All the planning was done by Charlie; he mapped out the work and threatened Billie's life if he did not execute it. Aultman's story all through was a whining hypocritical plea for sympathy, and is easily contradicted. It shows that it has been studied more for its effect on the jury than the hope of having it believed by the mass of people.

ARGUMENTS.

The arguments were begun by Mr. Logan, of the counsel for the state. It is unnecessary to say anything of Mr. Logan's reputation as an orator, for that is proverbial. He spoke earnestly and honestly that justice be done an outraged commonwealth. Col. Shepherd, attorney for the prisoner, made a strong argument against a hopeless mountain of prejudice, speaking with much warmth and fervor. Hon. A. W. Rogers spoke in behalf of Hamilton, pressing upon the minds of the jury what little hope there was in the testimony, and analyzing and fitting together the story of the defendant. It were well that men could set aside their own personal feelings and thus enter the lists to clear the stain from the soul of a self-confessed murderer, otherwise what would poor criminals do, the whole world against them?

At 8 o'clock court was called, and Mr. Wood began the closing argument. He spoke for nearly two hours, saying many things to impress upon the minds of the jury the guilt of the defendant. His speech was impressive, and did much to influence the verdict.

At 9:40 the case was given to the jury which retired to its rooms.

At 10 o'clock the court took recess until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, leaving the jury in the hands of the sheriff. The court room was crowded in almost every foot of available space. Many ladies, representing the highest class of society, had assembled and were given seats inside the bar, drawn thither by the interest in the case. The prisoner sat almost motionless, head erect, eyes wandering from judge to jury, and from thence to the face of the speaker; restless, uneasy and, at times, almost with a wild appearance. His face was paler than his wont, and the lines about his eyes and mouth were more defined than

usual, but one not acquainted with his history, and meeting him anywhere else than in a crowded court room, would not think that he is the hardened sinner that he is. His restless eyes, the twitchings at his mouth, the nervous posture, all portray the terrible mental strain he is undergoing.

THINK OF YOUR BOY.

[The following lines were composed and are frequently sung by Charlie Hamilton, now in jail at Warrensburg, under sentence of death for murder. He has a very good baritone voice, and sings the words to a tune of his own improvising. He has a mother living somewhere in Iowa, and wants some one to write to her, after his death, and tell her he is dead, but not at the hands of the law.]

Dear mother, I've wondered from home and from friends, I've traveled this busy world o'er; O, could I return and be with you again I'd leave you again nevermore. But while the dark ways of life they intend To keep me so far, far away, The tears fill my eyes while this blessing I ask: O, think of your boy when you pray.

Chorus—In your prayer night and morning remember your boy. And let him forgotten ne'er be; Forgive his transgressions and love him again, For he prays night and morning for thee.

O think of your suffering boy when you pray— He longs so to see you again; One sight of his home and the loved ones so dear Would lessen his sorrow and pain. No kind word of comfort e'er cheers his sad heart, As he wanders from day into night; But angels oft whisper this gently in dreams: O, think of your boy when you pray.

KNOB NEWS.

Accidentally Shot—A Complaint—Snake Charming, etc.

Knob Noster, May 14.—[Special].—While out hunting this afternoon, John Corum, aged 18, accidentally shot himself with a breech-loading shot gun. He was climbing over a wire fence, when the gun was discharged in some manner, and the load passed close to the right side of his face taking off about half of the right ear, and tearing a great hole in his hat. He is all right now. Corum is operator for the Pacific Mutual here during Manager Ward's absence.

Miss Della Gutliebe, an accomplished young lady of Centerville, is visiting Miss Nellie Cobb in this place.

Great indignation is expressed among the citizens of this place because the mail trains do not stop but go whizzing through town at the rate of forty miles an hour. It renders travel very inconvenient, and some method will be tried to get them to stop here regularly or at least make this a flag station.

While out hunting to-day Pratt Winchel and Tom Harrison captured an immense black snake measuring more than six feet in length. It was brought to town and Harris, the snake charmer, gave a street exhibition with the reptile, which was as docile in his hands as a lamb led to slaughter.

FOR FARMERS.

A correspondent of the Prairie farmer makes the following sensible observations on the

POWER OF KINDNESS:

Have my brother farmers ever noticed or realized the great benefit to be derived from the daily practice of kindness on the farm? If they have not, it is full time they were giving it their earnest attention.

Kindness! it is so light, so easily carried about, always at hand to bestow on man or beast; and it is a real pleasure to bestow it. It leaves such a lasting impression for good, the recipient always meets you with a pleasant welcome, and is ever ready to return the favor with compound interest. My own experience with this article of barter is so pleasant, so grand, that I would not exchange it for mines of gold.

In the morning when I go out, the first to greet me is my dog. He comes for his good morning, Spot, and a few pats on the head, then he is my companion on my stroll about the farm. The next to meet me are the chickens; they hold a regular jubilee, and we form a procession and march to the barn. At the gate I find the cows with their kindly ba's. They too march with the crowd; and when the crib is reached a small nubbin and a handful of corn pays them for their greeting. A few kind words to Blossom or Pink attract the attention of Billy, who is eating his breakfast in the stable; and his loud, cheerful nicker tells that he has heard my voice, and there is no more eating until I go up to him and rub his nose and speak a few kind words; then he seems content and goes on with his breakfast. So it is with all the stock, even to the timid sheep and the stupid pig; all seem to appreciate kindness. What do these dumb brutes give in return? All they have got. My dog is so watchful of my interest that he would sacrifice his life in their defense. My horse seems to know every word I speak to him. When I dismount, however distant from home, I leave him untied, and no matter how long I am out of his sight he will wait patiently for my return.

When I come home at evening I meet the children at the gate, waiting for me with eager expectation, and on the porch I am greeted by the tiny person and smiling features of my wife. This reception dispels all trouble and care, repaying a thousand-fold my confidence and kindness. But the profits do not stop here. I am no sooner announced, than willing hands are ready to relieve me from further care and labor. From the youngest to the oldest, whether my own family, or the help, each tries to excel the other in kind offices, knowing that

their interest and zeal will be rewarded by kind and encouraging words.

The benefits from kindness are not confined to one's own home. They extend to the everyday walks of life, to business and social relations. In my daily intercourse with the numerous tenants, composed of all classes, I find kindness and patience accomplish much. My presence is no sooner discovered than all are anxious to serve me. My horse is watered and fed, and I am feasted with the best the house affords. In exchange for this hospitality, I enter into all their little personal affairs, giving a timely word of advice, here, a warning there, and encouragement where it is deserved. So I say to every reader of the Prairie Farmer, practice kindness on the farm. Let all share in its pleasures, and many a gloomy hour will be dispelled, disagreeable tasks will become pleasant, and home will be as God intended it, the brightest spot on earth.

TREE PLANTING.

Care in the setting of trees is labor profitably employed. Do not hustle in the trees quickly as possible, thinking that the sooner its roots are covered the better. Dig a good-sized hole, and before putting in the tree spade up the bottom of the hole as deeply as possible. On this well-pulverized bottom the tree takes roots quickly. Sift in fine earth about the roots, and when the hole is filled pack the earth tightly about the tree. If in a dry place put a mulch of straw or old horse manure, well supplied with the litter, about the tree. In dry weather mulch may be raised, a pail of water applied, the mulch replaced, and its effects will last nearly a month.

TOMATO CULTURE.

A New York paper says you may raise your own tomato plants in the house if you have no hot bed. The seed may be sown in a starch box which has been filled with fine soil. Hops from a brewery may be mixed with the soil or put at the bottom for heating purposes. Place on a shelf near the sunshine. We sow the seeds of the Livingston Perfection. For years we have raised single tomato plants in old, decayed strawberry baskets, and when planting time came putting the plants out just as they stood, breaking the basket but not greatly disturbing the soil, and drawing the earth of the garden close around the plant. In this latitude we put paper or muslin cape over the plants at night until all danger of frost is over.

AMERICAN STOCK RANGE.

It was shown at a recent meeting of Minnesota stock breeders that three-fifths of all cattle in the country other than milch cows are west of the Mississippi, and that the northwest Mississippi valley—Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Dakota—has 6,308,000 this year against 5,830,000 in 1882; showing a gain of nearly 10 per cent. The gain in the ranching section altogether averages 6 per cent. Five states which have but just begun the dairying business—Mississippi, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska—increased the number of milch cows by 245,000 in the year, equal to nearly 10 per cent. Iowa, which has nearly half the whole number, shows a gain of 12, and Nebraska of 22 per cent.

ONIONS.

To raise a good crop of onions two important facts must be observed. They must have a rich, loamy soil, made as fine as possible by thorough cultivation, and they must be kept free from weeds. Use well rotted manure, in which case, if it contains weed and grass seed, their vitality will be impaired. For poor or stiff clayey soil give a liberal application of wood ashes. Test your seed before planting the entire crop, and sow as soon after the middle of March as the weather will permit.

MINOR MENTION.

The most progressive farmers are not only engaged in "breeding up" horses, cattle, sheep and swine, but their grains, vegetables, etc., as well. It is as well to raise mongrel stock as mongrel crops. Nearly everything in the line of farm crops have been greatly improved by judicious selection and careful cultivation, and the farmer who would keep abreast of the times should be careful to see that he has the best of each variety, rather than be content with growing the variety raised by his father and grandfather. Often a few dollars invested in a change of seed will double the value of the crop.

Sows intended for breeding should be separated from those intended for the butcher, and fed a generous but not fattening diet. Select those with long bodies, straight backs, and having the largest number of teats, as these make the best breeders. When a good breeder is thus secured, she should have at least two or three litters, and as many more as she will breed without becoming unruly or getting any bad habits.

—Malaria is caused by Torpid Liver; Piles by constipation; Headache by indigestion. Avoid them all by using the great vegetable remedy, Allen's Bilious Physic. 25 cents at all druggists.